

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 264

**An Act to Allow Crossbow Hunting During Muzzle-loading
Season**

PRESENTED BY: Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin

**COSPONSORED BY: Representative CROCKETT of Bethel and
Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, CRAFTS of Lisbon**

DATE OF HEARING: April 23, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Jim Connolly, Wildlife Division Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking **NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 264.**

L.D. 264 would modify existing law and allow hunting with a crossbow during the muzzle-loading season.

From a biological standpoint this change does not increase bag limits for any of the current deer seasons. However from a social perspective this bill would allow any crossbow hunters who have not tagged a deer to be active during the muzzleloader season. The structure and timing of the current seasons are a balance of competing interests. While this change may make crossbow hunters happy we believe there will be other hunters who are not happy with the change based on the perception that there will be increased hunting pressure that could affect the success of their hunt.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.